



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

May 19, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATUS REPORT – NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S AUTOMOBILE COLLECTION

On November 6, 2007, your Board approved the termination of the County Historic Automobile Collection Agreement with the Petersen Automotive Museum Foundation and ordered the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board on the Natural History Museum's (NHM) plans to assess the County-owned historic automotive vehicle collection (County Collection) before any cars are sold, or proposed to be sold. Since that date, NHM has proceeded with moving the County Collection vehicles to the new County-leased space. New loan agreements were signed for the vehicles that remain at the Petersen Automotive Museum (Petersen).

The status at this time is as follows:

- The collection manager, curatorial staff and Dr. John Long, NHM Vice President for Research and Collections, continue to research and refine which vehicles they believe may be most appropriate for disposition and which remain most important to retain based on their expertise and that of the outside experts they engaged. They are assessing each vehicle's relevance to Los Angeles' culture and history, value to the development of the industry and design;
- Upon completion (estimated June 30, 2010) of the section of the Preliminary Management Plan pertaining to the Collection, the Plan will be presented to your Board Offices;

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- NHM is developing a format to allow for periodic guided group tours of the Gardena collection storage facility;
- Two of the vehicles in the collection were included in a short-term USC exhibition entitled "Cartopia" and NHM staff participated in programming;
- NHM has nearly completed re-installing the tires that had been removed from many of the vehicles and anticipates that this project will be completed next month; and
- The conservation of the 1917 Woods Dual Power vehicle that may be included in the "Under the Sun" exhibit (a landmark permanent exhibition on the environmental and cultural history of Southern California scheduled to open in 2012) is near completion, including revealing and conserving its original paint layer that was discovered to be nearly intact in the course of other work.

The next status report will be provided by August 12, 2010. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me or your staff may contact Dorothea Park at (213) 974-4283, or via email at dpark@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:LS
DSP:RTM:os

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Natural History Museum